

# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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DECEMBER, 1935

*"What could you do better . . . than to be able to say on Christmas morning when your own children are around you: 'I did everything I could for the children who had no home?'"*

—HON. ALFRED E. SMITH

## Santa Claus Will Come in Kansas

**T**HAT the reindeer will surely find the children of the Kansas Children's Home and Service League, Topeka, is evident from the spirit of giving aroused by the following letter, sent by Herman Newman, superintendent, on bright Christmas stationery with a red paper stocking enclosed for the gifts of contributors:

"We send you our Christmas letter this year in a new spirit of hopefulness. There is much more confidence all about us and Kansas seems well on the way to plow through to a new day ahead.

"Last year at Christmas time the Children's Home and Service League had 580 children under its care. This year we have 640 children, whose health, schooling and even home life rest in our hands. No new doors of any sort have opened to homeless children and so, in spite of limited income, we have increased the size of our family.

"What you can share with children in the en-

closed red stocking will help us to meet a steady procession of needs—warm clothing, shoes, hospital care, special food for tiny babies, school supplies. And of course Christmas must be made a happy time when each child may receive some precious thing to call his own.

"Many of our friends with some contriving will be able to help more generously this year. Some can double last year's gift and others can raise \$1.00 checks to 5's. You know best what your own situation will allow. An old man, asked how he had managed to make the long trip to attend a religious meeting, replied, 'I am present here by the providence of God and by the exercise of a little ingenuity.' If God has blessed you with his providence will you not manage the ingenuity to bring sunshine to a homeless child?

"I believe the time has come to show our faith in the new day ahead. Will you help us to get boys and girls ready to live in it?"

## Accent on Children

**U**NDER the national chairmanship of Francis Biddle, of Philadelphia, the nation-wide effort of the Child Welfare League of America to focus public attention on half a million dependent, neglected and delinquent children is off to an enthusiastic and promising start.

Overlooked children of the depression, lost sight of in country-wide preoccupation with mass relief, are being brought into the spotlight of public attention, and their claims for care and protection recognized.

**M**EETINGS of leading citizens have been held during November in Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Buffalo, and similar meetings are being scheduled in other important cities.

Of outstanding significance is the revelation at these meetings that the public is only just beginning

to realize that thousands of children are not yet safely provided for in spite of all that is being done by government in the way of relief and security measures. This realization is stirring men and women to interest and activity.

It is to focus the attention of citizens and organizations throughout the country on these children, and to provide \$100,000 to enlarge its staff and activities in proportion to the demands made upon it by the emergency, that the League has undertaken to recruit a nation-wide individual membership.

**F**OR the luncheon meeting held at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis on November 21, the local committee, headed by Miss Gertrude Taggart, had gathered an influential group of community leaders

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## Accent on Children

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to hear Mr. Biddle, chairman of the National Committee on Child Welfare, set up by the League. Miss Taggart presided. Mr. Biddle stressed the necessity of viewing the situation as a national problem, and he pointed out that the League is "the only agency . . . to lead the effort to relieve these voiceless and defenseless children."

Meetings held in Cincinnati on November 22 included a luncheon arranged by Troy Appleby in honor of Mr. Biddle, and a dinner at the Young Women's Christian Association, at which more than 100 were present. At the luncheon, Mr. Biddle's pleas for action were strongly supported by C. M. Bookman, executive vice-chairman of the Community Chest of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; Colonel Milt D. Campbell, of the American Legion; and C. W. Areson, assistant executive director of the League.

At the dinner meeting the principal speaker was J. Prentice Murphy, of Philadelphia, former president of the League, and president-elect of the National Conference of Social Work. Others included Colonel Milt D. Campbell, Mrs. Luetta Magruder, and Eric W. Gibberd. Mr. Murphy deplored "a note of hard practicability which considers human distress inescapable." He declared that money invested in the national service of the Child Welfare League of America would multiply its usefulness many times by helping to assure the efficient, economical use of millions of dollars spent by public and private agencies for the care of needy children.

Mr. Murphy also addressed a meeting of more than 200 persons at a luncheon in Buffalo on November 26, sponsored by the local committee in the Hotel Statler. The committee comprises Dr. Niles Carpenter, Bishop Cameron J. Davis, Rabbi Joseph L. Fink, Paul Husted, Mrs. Frank St. John Sidway, Mrs. Edgar A. Stevens, and Regis O'Brien. Dr. Fink presided.

As the BULLETIN goes to press, a luncheon of the Rochester committee and special guests, and an afternoon meeting of board members and workers, will be held on December 5. Meetings are planned for Philadelphia early in December.

As Mr. Biddle has stated: "We are enlisted for the duration of the war against want and neglect of children whose needs have not been met by mass relief, by aid to mothers, or by institutional and foster family care. Every citizen interested in caring

for these children is invited to enlist as an individual member of the League."

## New Campaign Endorsers

MEMBERSHIP of the National Committee on Child Welfare, as of October 26, was published in the November issue of the BULLETIN. The following have also accepted membership on this committee of endorsement for the League's membership campaign:

Miss Grace Abbott, Chicago  
Troy Appleby, Cincinnati  
Mrs. Elliott Averett, Chatham, N. J.  
Henry Bacheller, Newark, N. J.  
Mrs. Robert Bonnell, Baltimore  
Rev. S. Parkes Cadman, Brooklyn  
Mrs. Alfred A. Cook, New York  
Hon. Royal S. Copeland, New York  
John M. Cronin, Cincinnati  
Mrs. Bertram Cutler, Green Village, N. J.  
Mrs. Graham Dougherty, Berryville, Va.  
Hon. Joseph B. Ely, Westfield, Mass.  
Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, New York  
Charles Edwin Fox, Philadelphia  
Mrs. Hugh Murray French, St. Louis  
Mrs. Homer Gage, Worcester, Mass.  
William L. Galvin, Baltimore  
Albert P. Gerhard, Philadelphia  
Herbert Gerst, Norfolk, Va.  
Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson, Greenwood, Va.  
Dr. Lillian M. Gilbreth, Montclair, N. J.  
L. Edwin Goldman, Baltimore  
Mrs. Thomas Hart, Philadelphia  
D. Luke Hopkins, Baltimore  
Mrs. Edmund N. Huyck, Albany, N. Y.  
Monsignor Robert F. Keegan, New York  
Mrs. Warren Kinney, New Vernon, N. J.  
Mrs. Gustave Kissell, Morristown, N. J.  
Mrs. Blanche La Du, St. Paul  
Mrs. Louis C. Madeira, Philadelphia  
Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, New York  
Stanley Matthews, Cincinnati  
Mrs. Elizabeth C. McAlpin, Convent, N. J.  
Mrs. Winter Mead, Morristown, N. J.  
Regis O'Brien, Buffalo  
Miss Margaret Payson, Portland, Me.  
George F. Phillips, Buffalo  
Mrs. D. K. Rose, Clayton, Mo.  
William Jay Schieffelin, New York  
Miss Louise Shugard, Newark, N. J.  
Mrs. Edwin H. Steedman, St. Louis  
Rt. Rev. Ernest M. Stires, Brooklyn  
Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter, Morristown, N. J.  
Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, New York  
Mrs. Robert A. Taft, Cincinnati  
Ben Taub, Houston  
Hon. Robert F. Wagner, New York  
Hon. Thomas J. S. Waxter, Baltimore

NOTE: It was planned to send the League's new campaign booklet, "For Children of the Depression," to all member agencies of the League, but due to heavy demands in cities where campaigns are being conducted, further copies cannot be mailed until a second edition is off the press. Requests for the booklet will be filled as soon as more copies are available.

## How Does the League Help Children?

OVER two hundred years ago the Ursuline Nuns started the first orphanage in the United States. Their asylum, in New Orleans, was "not only for the white girl but also for the negress and the squaw." Several little orphans of an Indian massacre were among their early charges. Boy orphans were cared for by the Jesuits and Capuchins.

It was not until the nineteenth century, however, that orphanages began to dot the country to rescue children from the sordid and demoralizing life in almshouses. And not until the latter half of the century was effort made to supplement foster institutional care with foster care in private families. Modern methods of child care are truly modern. The greatest impetus dates back only a quarter of a century or so.

NEW YEAR'S DAY will be the sixteenth birthday of the Child Welfare League of America. When we remember that it was not until 1920 that a group of child-caring agencies and institutions decided to join hands across the country, under the banner of the League, we realize the similarity of child welfare development to the whole evolution of civilization. "We think our civilization near its meridian," said Emerson, "but we are yet only at the cock-crowing and the morning star."

Today, side by side with enlightened care that will enable boys and girls to grow into happy and useful citizens, we have relics of the past. Now, too, we have "the children of the depression,"—and slashed budgets, always inadequate at the best of times, are far from elastic enough to provide for them.

Testifying before the Finance Committee of the Senate not long ago, Miss Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the United States Children's Bureau, said:

"The extent to which the needs of children are being neglected in many parts of the country at the present time is illustrated by the conditions in one state where over 400 children were reported in almshouses within the last year or two.

"This is a type of care which we had thought was characteristic of the conditions described by Dickens and not of present-day American conditions, and yet those have been subjected to almshouse care in association with the degenerate and feeble-minded and senile population of the almshouses."

The plight of destitute and neglected children in rural areas is especially tragic. Even in "rich cities," however, children remain in dangerous homes because money is not forthcoming for their care elsewhere.

In days of old there were fewer children in need of care than there are today—but "the orphan" or "the neglected child" was seen more readily by the community because life was simpler and more intimate. There are more than a quarter of a million children in the care of agencies and institutions, and it is estimated that at least half a million others are not provided for properly. As Miss Emma C. Puschner, director of the national child welfare division of the American Legion, has expressed it, "Children are being left 'in the middle of the road'." And yet our eyes do not see them.

WHAT part is the League playing in this forward-moving drama? How is it helping these children—and the children still to come? When a generous person, layman or social worker, becomes a member or contributor, how do his dollars become influential in the hands of the League to relieve the plight of such children?

Many human and gripping situations permeate the otherwise cold categories of service performed by a national league. What underlies conferences, consultations, correspondence, field service, inter-society casework service, publications, surveys, teaching, coordination and leadership?

ONE of the projects in which the Child Welfare League of America has participated this year is not far distant from the institution started by the Ursuline Nuns in the eighteenth century.

In Shreveport, Louisiana, with a population of 80,000, the Junior League and the Council of Social

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### Our Campaign Treasurer

ALTHOUGH Major General James G. Harbord, of New York, chairman of the board of the Radio Corporation of America, has retired from the military service in which he rose from private, corporal, sergeant to great achievements and high honors, he has not relinquished the spirit of that service. As treasurer of the national membership campaign of the Child Welfare League of America, General Harbord is bringing to the homeless and neglected children of the country the leadership that has won for him world-wide recognition.



## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.—Editor.

This BULLETIN, published monthly (omitted in July and August).  
 Annual subscription, \$1.00      Single copies, 10c.

## Intelligent Giving

A PROMINENT social worker, when speaking of an acquaintance, once said, "He is still keeping himself warm on a nest of orphans."

While most social work is honestly done it suffers lamentably from those who have a glib tongue, a winning way, but have little else to justify their pretensions to service—and child welfare organizations are clearly the greatest sufferers from such tyros or charlatans.

Even the press was recently led into sentimentality instead of demanding the facts regarding certain "child welfare" projects.

In medicine and law the community has found ways to protect its citizens more or less successfully from malpractice, whereas in social service but few standards have as yet gained wide acceptance.

The waste of money in child welfare through inadequate or dishonest procedures, important as it is, is not the greatest loss. The loss most to be deplored is that children's lives are cramped—even to the extent that all their days these helpless members of our communities remain dependent instead of becoming our useful and self-respecting citizens—because of wrong methods of training and correction, and through unwholesome associations.

Gifts are being made and wills are being written each year to satisfy the commendable cravings of the human spirit, but all too often, however, without knowledge of how the money can be used most effectively. Some bequests are so eccentric as to seem the results of mere whims.

Millions in money that should bring blessings to this and the coming generations of children lie idle or are harmful in their results.

Those who are eager to help bring happiness and joy to children by their benefactions should make sure that the conditions of their gifts and bequests are such as to permit them to serve new generations of children even when times and circumstances have changed.

The League does not set itself up as an agency that has all the wisdom in these matters, or one that can correct all wrong procedures and can protect all citizens from foolish expenditures. It has, however, in its fifteen years of service gathered much valuable information regarding child welfare projects, and it is in position to make this available as well as advice to those eager to learn the facts so they may give intelligently.

—C. C. CARSTENS

## Mrs. George C. Hitchcock

THE day before Thanksgiving, Mrs. George C. Hitchcock, of St. Louis, member of the board of directors of the St. Louis Children's Aid Society and of the Child Welfare League of America, died after an illness of several months.

A telegram of announcement from the St. Louis Children's Aid Society to the League says: "Her passing is a great loss to the agency and community, and many of us have lost a great friend."

Although Mrs. Hitchcock had been a member of the League's board of directors for only one year, and her active service was of short duration because of illness, the vacancy created by her death bespeaks the loss on the part of thousands of children in America of a sincerely devoted and energetic defender.

## A Memorial in Photographs

FOLLOWING the sudden death of a close personal friend and business associate, three pictures symbolic of childhood were supplied by Miss Doris Day, photographer, of New York, to the Child Welfare League of America for its new campaign booklet, "For Children of the Depression."

She felt that such a contribution in behalf of the children for whom the League is conducting its national membership program would be a most fitting form of commemoration for her friend.

One of the pictures, that of a boy and his dog, has been used on the cover of the booklet. Another, of a little girl and a pussy cat, is on page 4. The third, an ardent baseball player, appears on page 14. (A

copy of this campaign booklet will be gladly mailed upon request.)

Miss Day showed great interest in the efforts of social agencies to secure suitable illustrations and in the problems involved, such as securing proof of the permission of parents or guardians to use the photographs. She stressed the greater prevalence today of lawsuits for the unauthorized use of photographs, and that the person or organization publishing the photograph, not the photographer is responsible.

## How Does the League Help Children?

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Agencies were eager to provide for more of the needy children. There were already two institutions for children in the city, but it was felt that a new children's agency, with individual casework, was essential.

Upon invitation, three days of consultation were spent in Shreveport the latter part of June by Mr. C. C. Carstens, executive director of the League. He stressed that while it is easier to start something new it is better community planning to enrich the old. It was therefore decided to ask that one of the existing institutions, the Genevieve Orphanage, with between forty and fifty white children in care, consider undertaking the new form of service—with a skilled caseworker. Such a worker could assist in making the best plans for the children then in care, and, in the course of a year, bring aid—within or outside the institution—to one hundred or one hundred and fifty other needy and neglected children.

Seated on the veranda at the home of one of the prominent citizens one evening, a small group discussed the plan with Mr. Carstens. By telephone that evening and early the next morning, a meeting of the board of directors of the Genevieve Orphanage was arranged, and at ten o'clock in the morning the meeting was held. Meeting followed meeting, with due consideration of policies outlined in the charter of the Orphanage, and it was finally voted to establish the new service for children. The Junior League offered to supply Shreveport's "first social caseworker" to direct the work.

Following Mr. Carstens' brief visit, a search was begun for the person who could fulfill the requirements of this uncharted task. Through the efforts of the Child Welfare League of America and Joint Vocational Service, that person has now been found—Miss Moss Tyler, a worker in one of the League's member agencies, the Henry Watson Children's Aid Society

of Baltimore. Miss Tyler will begin the new work in January. A letter of appreciation has just been received from Mrs. Miles Talbot, president of the Junior League of Shreveport.

Miss Tyler is a descendant of President Tyler. This southern heritage is a happy addition to her other qualifications for the position. She has been with the Henry Watson Children's Aid Society since 1928, where she had their full training program, including a period of observation in the Family Welfare Association of Baltimore, two quarters in the New York School of Social Work, and an internship in the Henry Watson Children's Aid Society. She is a graduate of the University of Delaware.

A leading editorial in *The Shreveport Times* of July 26 said in part:

"When the board of directors of the Genevieve Orphanage and the members of the Shreveport Junior League in June adopted a program of child welfare whereby they will make every effort to 'save the family for the child,' Shreveport made a forward step in its social life. . . .

"Dr. C. C. Carstens, executive director of the Child Welfare League of America, who spent three days in Shreveport the latter part of June, advised with local workers and recommended they institute such a program.

"In an address before the Caddo Council of Social Agencies, he outlined five important points as fundamentals in the field of child welfare—the family, skilled service, planning for the individual, social program among the various institutions and agencies, and participation by the citizenry as well as the individual boards.

"He brought out a thought which is particularly gratifying—'several years ago the world, watching Russia, felt that family life was passing out—but the last two years show that the family is stronger than before and that family life and surroundings are essential in rounding out the life of a normal child.'"

Thus, through three days of consultation service in the field and through correspondence, some of the dollars contributed to the League have not only helped to influence the use of thousands of dollars in Shreveport but they have also inaugurated a new era for more children of today and many more boys and girls of tomorrow.

THIS particular illustration of service in Shreveport may not apply in "Yourtown" or "Our City," however, as there is no formula in such counseling.

In the next town on the line of march there may be an entirely different situation—possibly a golden flow of money tied up by the terms of a bequest to an outmoded form of philanthropy and awaiting an "Open sesame," an interpretation that will succeed in releasing the funds so that they will really help children.

Or, possibly a merger of agencies is involved, local or state-wide. Or, helping an old-time institution to bring itself up to date. In one community a cut of \$100,000 in the budget of a public child-care organization has been avoided, with the assistance of the League—a good dividend in terms of child happiness upon an investment of very few service dollars.

One of the League's intensive institutional surveys was that of the second oldest orphanage in the United States—the Charleston Orphan House, of Charleston, South Carolina, which opened about three-quarters of a century after the one of the Ursuline Nuns in New Orleans. This study was made back in the spring of 1925, by Miss Mary Irene Atkinson, then a League staff member and now director of the child welfare division of the United States Children's Bureau.

As stated in the report of the survey:

"We were asked to undertake the study of the Orphan House presumably to point out certain changes which should be made in order that the service rendered might more fully conform to changing social conditions and to the more recent developments in methods of child care throughout the country."

Institutions have been modernized in various parts of the country, through surveys and consultations by the League. In one large city of the Middle West a series of Protestant children's institutions were not only assisted in making up-to-date plans for their boys and girls but also a course of training for their staffs was organized and conducted by the League.

The president of a children's home wrote regarding this institute:

"I have delayed writing you concerning the school because I wanted to get far enough away from it to have a sober opinion of its effect on my institution. I still want to say that I think it was the greatest influence that has touched our institution in the five years that I have been here, and I do not know of a finer service that the Child Welfare League of America can render than to go out and hold these schools.

"The house mothers are the ones who are actually doing the work, and their pay is usually so small that it would be impossible for them to have advantage of such a school unless it was brought to them."

Although it is becoming increasingly realized that "the worker who has most to do with the child is the most important person in the organization," there are entirely too few trained workers, and facilities for training them are inadequate. Moreover, in some institutions the persons taking care of the children are often as mal-adjusted and as pathetic as the children themselves.

WHAT are some of the many subjects upon which alert organizations turn to a national federation for information? Taking at random some of the correspondence of this year we find:

A request from the West: "May I ask an opinion on the length of the probation period in adoption placements?"

\* \* \*

A council of social agencies in the Far West requested "descriptions of psychiatric, psychological and mental health programs now in operation in institutions for dependent children."

\* \* \*

An organization wanted to know the length of isolation periods upon admission of infants, runabouts, school children attending school in the institution or public school outside, and whether isolation should be in a separate building or merely a separate room.

\* \* \*

From a Hebrew orphanage in Canada: "We are seeking some information regarding foster care for under-privileged and orphan children, and would appreciate receiving from you, at your earliest convenience, information as to the number of children in foster homes and the approximate cost of upkeep per child."

\* \* \*

An executive in the Middle West requested information about the guardianship of children committed to her organization by the juvenile court. Also, she asked advice regarding plans for building an institution which her board of directors was considering.

\* \* \*

From a supervisor: "We are laying plans to carry out the recommendations which were made as a result of the survey. I am anxious to have comparative figures on the cost of keeping a child in a boarding home. Do you have such figures? I would like to know the average cost of board, clothing, and other items of maintenance. Also I would like to know the service cost and would like to have these figures on a per diem basis. If you have this information it will be of great help to me and I will appreciate very much your sending it."

\* \* \*

A director of a community survey made this inquiry: "I should like the help of the League office in getting some material on the financing of child placing agencies in some of the larger communities in this country. Our finance committee and the budget committee of the Community Fund have both asked me to secure information which would show how our Community Fund allocation for child caring agencies compares with that of other cities."

\* \* \*

From the registered nurse of a children's home: "I wish especially to find some equipment along the following lines: a frame for measuring the length of infants (which I have heard described), the sitting height of older children, and filing cabinets for health charts, and any other new furniture that might be helpful."

\* \* \*

From the director of a state department of social welfare: "I am wondering if the Child Welfare League has any information relative to the use of the radio as a medium through which to get in touch with prospective homes for children."

\* \* \*

From the executive of a member agency: "Our Council of Social Agencies is attempting a preliminary study of the social and health problems of the community and the activities necessary to



take care of these problems. This study is being made by the sub-councils. As none of us know very much about such a study we are floundering around and I feel your advice would be most helpful."

IN an eastern city, romance suddenly seemed the all-important thing in life to the young wife of a highly respected but evidently undemonstrative man, and with a slender pocketbook she set forth to the Middle West in search of the lacking element.

Through the inter-society casework service made possible by the affiliation with the League of agencies in the respective cities, the young woman and her husband are together again, making a happier home for their children.

Such service extending across the country and to Europe is carried out among member agencies of the League, supplemented by members of the Family Welfare Association of America, the International Migration Service, and the League's foreign correspondents.

Especially since the Great War and the Army of Occupation, a small avalanche of problems has come regarding children born within—or outside of—international marriages. The League and its member agencies in various parts of the country have been instrumental in helping to untangle, on this side of the Atlantic, over a thousand of the snarls, and in securing the funds to provide for many of the children.

HUNDREDS of persons—laymen and social workers—attend the regional conferences conducted by the League from time to time in New England, the Middle Atlantic States, the South, and the Middle West. Each year the League holds a national conference at the time and place of the National Conference of Social Work. It is then that the League's annual meeting is held.

These gatherings offer an opportunity to vivify the task of the individual social worker or board member, and they help to provide the inspiration with which to return to that task. They also provide the means of arousing greater interest in the child welfare programs of communities.

The conferences are largely made possible through the volunteer assistance of member agency executives, who give time and enthusiasm to organizing them, planning the programs, securing the speakers, and taking care of the many details that go into a successful conference. In the absence of funds to publish all the proceedings of these conferences, many of the volunteers themselves furnish summaries for those who could not attend.

SOME years ago an elite magazine carried a parable in which an Angel appeared before the Devil and asked him whether he was not worried about all the efforts for Good on the Earth. The Devil replied nonchalantly that he was not, as he would get people to **organize** their good works.

Sometimes it seems that the difficulties in the way of organization, especially financial ones, are in accord with this parable. But, this suggests challenge, not discouragement, especially at a time when the needs of children demand far greater effort than ever before.

Within the next two years the League should be able to provide:

1. Additional field staff for service to institutions and to child-caring agencies;
2. A consultant on community child care development in relation to public work;
3. Timely news and information service to keep alive the interest gained through the present national membership campaign;
4. A research worker to analyze and make available the experience stored in the files of the League office;
5. A medical consultant to assist in developing health programs of agencies and institutions.

Indeed, the Ursuline Nuns of 1727 would be amazed if they could see 1937.

—FLORENCE M. PHARO

## Analyzing the Census

ALTHOUGH different methods of census-taking prevent exact comparisons, the recent release from the U. S. Bureau of the Census covering the count of children under the care or supervision of agencies and institutions on December 31, 1933, indicates practically a static condition as compared with figures of the count taken ten years ago. It is possible, however, to estimate the rise and fall of figures within that ten-year period by comparing certain figures and ratios for 1933 with those of the partial census taken by the Child Welfare League of America as of July 1, 1930, for the White House Conference. Figures for 1929 were undoubtedly similar to those for 1930, as the curtailment or closing of intake, lower standards, and cuts did not become effective until after 1930.

Conservatively, it is estimated that, in spite of known distress and appeals that children be provided for, about 23,000 fewer children were under care throughout the country in 1933 than in 1930, an

average of about 6,600 fewer children each year during the three-and-a-half year period.

Comparison of ratios for the 32 states covered in the 1930 census shows that the number of children in care remained practically the same in two states, rose in 10 states by an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  children per 10,000 of state population, but fell in 20 states by an average of  $4\frac{1}{3}$  children per 10,000 of state population. The net decrease in these 32 states, having 69 per cent of the population of the country, was over 16,000 children.

## Children in Trouble

*CHILD PSYCHIATRY*, by Leo Kanner, M.D. Published by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., and Baltimore, Md. 1935. 527 pages. \$6.00 postpaid.

THIS is a careful, straightforward, itemized statement of the extent to which psychiatric knowledge and technique are available to the pediatrician. It is a book for the physician rather than for the social worker. Indeed, except for a short paragraph stating that a "competent social worker can do a great deal" (if one is "careful not to select the type who goes beyond the physician's arrangements"), her work, her philosophy, her contribution to the problems of the child in trouble are not even mentioned.

There is an excellent, detailed and extensive catalogue of the neurological and psychiatric problems which come to the pediatrician's office—along with the pitfalls in diagnosis, frequency of appearance, outcome, and the more obvious and reliable modes of treatment.

Dr. Anna Freud described psychiatric work among children as comprising only patience, faith in the child, and a willingness and ability to see the problem as the child sees it. (This last does not necessarily mean "to solve the problem as the child has solved it.") In telling fashion Dr. Kanner stresses these points, and he gives much practical advice as to their application. Any agency with a pediatrician who is more interested in the diseases of children than in children can do no better than leave this volume on his doorstep.

The book is the only one of its sort of which we know. On the one hand it boldly attempts to drag the whole field of the treatment of conduct disorders back into the medical fold. On the other, it seeks to allay the pediatrician's fears and doubts as to psychiatry. In this respect Dr. Kanner's work at Johns Hopkins (the book is the result of four years of his collaboration with the pediatric group at that hos-

pital) stands fair chance of becoming of unique historical value.

The reviewer doubts, however, that psychiatry needs to be sold on a policy of, "I'm not half so terrible an ogre as you thought I was." He is disturbed to hear Dr. Kanner's fervid calls to the wayward to forswear the unscientific and unverified claims of the social worker, the psychoanalyst, the educator, and all those other "charlatans" who have entered the field. This would be amusing did not the parent, the teacher, the child, so desperately need the physician's help.

Some of us who are physicians, and who long for certainty of method quite as seriously as does Dr. Kanner, find our patients caught and tangled in new social tensions, new attitudes about authority and tradition, new conceptions of family organization. With them we must venture and explore. Dr. Kanner's impressive listing of conduct disorders totally ignores the intricate pressure of social forces; children and their parents cannot do so.

The book considerably extends the vision of the pediatrician. It shows the liver, the heart, the enuresis as but parts of an ever-growing psychological pattern. It is regrettable that it fails to see that this pattern in turn is to be understood only in its relationship to the pattern of parent, teacher, playmate, pastor, employer—in its relationship to every social tension and change—in its frantic, "unscientific" search for that in which it may have faith, for that which will give some answer and explanation to the topsy-turvy world in which we find ourselves.—JAMES S. PLANT, M.D., *Director*, Essex County Juvenile Clinic, Newark, N. J.

## Directory Changes

ALABAMA—Montgomery: State Child Welfare Department, out of existence. Substitute: Bureau of Child Welfare, Department of Public Welfare, Montgomery, Mrs. Edward Gresham, Director.

NEBRASKA—Omaha: Child Welfare Association. Miss Eulah Belle Orr, Executive Secretary, succeeding Miss Lillian J. Johnson, resigned.

## Enclosures

(Sent to Member Agencies Only)

CADDIES OF ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK, by Roy F. Woodbury, Director, and Charlotte Isabel Clafin, Assistant, Juvenile Protective Department, Children's Aid and S.P.C.C. of Erie County, New York, 70 W. Chippewa St., Buffalo, N. Y. 44-page printed report, June, 1935.

National Conference of Social Work, Atlantic City—May 24-30, 1936.



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